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DATAGRAM

1979–80 Enrollment in U.S. Medical Schools

The total number of medical students enrolled in U.S. medical schools rose to a record high of 63,800 in the fall of 1979. Although this reflects a 2.6 percent increase over 1978, it is the smallest increase in the last six years. Increases in 1977 and 1978 were 3.9 and 3.6 percent, respectively. While some of the increase in 1979 is due to the expansion in the size of the 1979 entering class, most of the growth can be attributed to positions filled through advanced placement.

A total of 16,930 students comprise the first-year class that entered in the fall of 1979, resulting in a 2.6 percent increase over the previous year. This increase derives from two factors. First, the expansion of available first-year places in the nation's existing medical schools provided 324 new spaces. Second, two newly accredited medical schools (the Universidad Central del Caribe in Cayey, Puerto Rico, and Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma) accommodated 105 new students, accounting for 24 percent of the increase.

Female medical student enrollment continues to increase as it has in the past six years. Total enrollment of women rose from 15,102 (24.3 percent of the total students enrolled) to an all-time high of 16,141 (25.3 percent). The total enrollment of women has grown from 9,661 in 1974–75 to 16,141 in 1979–80, a 67.1 percent increase. During the same period, the enrollment of men increased from 43,893 in 1974–75 to 47,637 in 1979–80, an increase of only 8.5 percent. First year enrollment of women rose from 4,162 in 1978–79 (25.2 percent of the first-year class) to 4,713 in 1979–80 (27.8 percent of the first-year class). This is the sharpest increase recorded in the past six years.

Enrollment figures do not support the conclusion that underrepresented minorities have been adversely affected by the Bakke decision. (The underrepresented minorities category in this study consists of blacks, American Indians or Alaskan natives, Mexican Americans/Chicanos and mainland Puerto Ricans.)

Underrepresented minority enrollment rose

TABLE 1

U.S. Medical School Enrollments for 1979–80

Racial/Ethnic Category	First-Year Enrollments*				Total Enrollments			
	Men	Women	Total	Percent of Total	Men	Women	Total	Percent of Total
U.S. Citizens								
White	10,505	3,754	14,259	84.2	41,779	13,075	54,854	86.0
Underrepresented Minorities								
Black	613	495	1,108	6.5	2,078	1,549	3,627	5.7
American Indian or Alaskan Native	47	16	63	.4	157	55	212	.3
Mexican American/Chicano	216	74	290	1.7	735	229	964	1.5
Puerto Rican (Mainland)	56	30	86	.5	179	104	283	.4
Other U.S. Students								
Asian or Pacific Islander	348	154	502	3.0	1,259	518	1,777	2.8
Puerto Rican (Commonwealth)	149	77	226	1.3	455	245	700	1.1
Other Hispanic	129	59	188	1.1	407	160	567	.9
Foreign Students								
Black	34	12	46	.3	115	43	158	.2
Other	120	42	162	.9	473	163	636	1.0
All Students	12,217	4,713	16,930	100.0	47,637	16,141	63,800†	100.0

* First-year enrollment includes new entrants and those repeating the initial year.

† Total includes 22 students from whom data were not available.

slightly from 7.9 percent of the total student body in 1978–79 to 8.0 percent in 1979–80. First-year enrollment of underrepresented minorities rose from 8.7 percent in 1978–79 to 9.1 percent in 1979–80. Compared with 1978–79, the 1979–80 first-year class has 236 fewer white males (2.2 percent less), 447 more white females (13.5 percent gain), 60 more underrepresented minority females (10.8 percent gain), and 44 more underrepresented minority males (5.0 percent gain).

Foreign student enrollment decreased slightly, continuing a trend observed over the past six years. Of the 1979–80 total medical school population, 794 (1.2 percent) students are non-U.S. citizens compared with 897 (1.4 percent) in 1978–79. Of the 1979–80 first-year class, 208 students (1.2 percent) were non-U.S. citizens compared with 228 students (1.4 percent) in 1978–79.

The sources of data for this study are Association of American Medical Colleges fall enrollment surveys. All figures reflect final enrollment and may differ slightly from earlier published material. Figures include repeaters and re-entrants to medical school.

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TABLE 2

First-Year U.S. Medical School Enrollments, Men and Women, 1974–75 through 1979–80*

	1974–75		1975–76		1976–77		1977–78		1978–79		1979–80	
	(114 Schools)		(114 Schools)		(116 Schools)		(120 Schools)		(124 Schools)		(126 Schools)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Men	11,488	77.8	11,648	76.2	11,755	75.3	12,006	74.4	12,339	74.8	12,217	72.2
Women	3,275	22.2	3,647	23.8	3,858	24.7	4,130	25.6	4,162	25.2	4,713	27.8
Total	14,763	100.0	15,295	100.0	15,613	100.0	16,136	100.0	16,501	100.0	16,930	100.0

SOURCE: AAMC Fall Enrollment Surveys

* First-year enrollment includes new entrants and those repeating the initial year.

TABLE 3

Total U.S. Medical School Enrollments, Men and Women, 1974–75 through 1979–80

	1974–75		1975–76		1976–77		1977–78		1978–79		1979–80	
	(114 Schools)		(114 Schools)		(116 Schools)		(120 Schools)		(124 Schools)		(126 Schools)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Men	43,893	82.0	44,401	79.5	44,811	77.6	45,821	76.3	47,111	75.7	47,637	74.7
Women	9,661	18.0	11,417	20.5	12,954	22.4	14,218	23.7	15,102	24.3	16,141	25.3
Total	53,554	100.0	55,818	100.0	57,765	100.0	60,039	100.0	62,213	100.0	63,800*	100.0

SOURCE: AAMC Fall Enrollment Surveys.

* Total includes 22 students from whom data were not available.

NOTE

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